AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method ~~composition for promoting bacterial proliferation~~ for promoting health in a subject comprising selectively proliferating *Lactobacillus casei* subsp. *casei* in the subject, comprising a step of administering a composition comprising a dextran to the subject.

2. (Currently amended) The ~~composition for promoting bacterial proliferation~~method according to claim 1, ~~further comprising~~wherein the composition further comprises *Lactobacillus casei* subsp. *casei*.

3. (Currently amended) The ~~composition for promoting bacterial proliferation~~method according to claim 1, wherein the dextran has a molecular weight of 2,000 to 40,000,000.

4. (Currently amended) A method for treating a subject comprising a step of administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising ~~the composition for promoting bacterial proliferation according to claim 2~~a dextran to the subject.

5. (Currently amended) A method for promoting health of a subject comprising a step of administering a health food comprising ~~the composition for promoting bacterial proliferation according to claim 2~~a dextran to the subject.

6. (Currently amended) A method for promoting health of a subject comprising a step of administering a feed comprising ~~the composition for promoting bacterial proliferation according to claim 2~~a dextran to the subject.

7. (New) The method according to claim 4, wherein the composition further comprises *Lactobacillus casei* subsp. *casei*.

8. (New) The method according to claim 4, wherein the dextran has a molecular weight of 2,000 to 40,000,000.

9. (New) The method according to claim 5, wherein the food further comprises *Lactobacillus casei* subsp. *casei*.

10. (New) The method according to claim 5, wherein the dextran has a molecular weight of 2,000 to 40,000,000.

11. (New) The method according to claim 6, wherein the feed further comprises *Lactobacillus casei* subsp. *casei*.

12. (New) The method according to claim 6, wherein the dextran has a molecular weight of 2,000 to 40,000,000.